

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for keeping a person warm while in a tree stand ~~having a base connected to a tree,~~ comprising:

a generally tubular length of material having an open end and a closed end, wherein said closed end includes a fastener for securing the apparatus to ~~the~~ a base of ~~the~~ a tree stand.
2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a bracket ~~mounted to the base of the stand for maintaining the apparatus when in a rolled-up condition~~ for securing the apparatus to a base of a tree stand when the apparatus is in a rolled-up condition.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a band for securing the apparatus when in a rolled-up condition to said bracket.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said band is either a hook and loop self-securing band or a nylon cable tie.
5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an elastic band encircling said open end.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a protective mat secured to said closed end of the apparatus.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising pockets in said tubular length of material at or near said open end.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of: nylon, polar fleece, parachute silk, Gore-Tex®, and Windstopper®.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said material includes an inner layer of polar fleece material and an outer layer of either parachute silk, Gore-Tex®, or Windstopper® material.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for keeping a person warm while in a tree stand ~~having a base connected to a tree~~, comprising:

a generally tubular length of material having an open end and a closed end, wherein said closed end includes a fastener for securing the apparatus to ~~the~~ a base of ~~the a tree~~ stand;

an elastic band encircling said open end; and

a protective mat secured to said closed end of the apparatus.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising pockets in said tubular length of material at or near said open end.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a bracket ~~mounted to the base of the stand~~ for ~~maintaining~~ securing the apparatus to a base of a tree stand when the apparatus is in a rolled-up condition.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a band for securing the apparatus when in a rolled-up condition to said bracket.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said band is either a hook and loop self-securing band or a nylon cable tie.
17. Canceled.
18. Canceled.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of: nylon, polar fleece, parachute silk, Gore-Tex®, and Windstopper®.
20. (Amended) A method of keeping a person warm while in a tree stand ~~having a base connected to a tree~~, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) inserting one or both feet and legs into a generally tubular length of material having an open end and a closed end, wherein said closed end is secured to ~~the~~ a base of ~~the~~ a tree stand by a fastener; and
 - (b) pulling the open end of the length of material up to a desired height.